



## Mutual Aid and Interoperability Project

### Frequently Asked Questions

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1. **Question:** In 100 words or less, what is this Mutual Aid program?  
**Answer:** One or more channels in each frequency band used by first responders in the Commonwealth will be made available to allow multiple agencies to coordinate their efforts in times of emergency. These channels are dedicated to mutual aid, can be accessed by simply changing to the appropriate frequency, and are completely separate from the operational channels used by participating agencies. Think of the mutual aid channels as "Party-Line" channels that will allow multiple agencies to speak directly with each other.
2. **Question:** Do I need new radios, personnel, licenses, or something else?  
**Answer:** No. A great deal of thought went into providing this capability at no cost to the using agencies. The Office of Homeland security is funding this project and KSP is providing the staffing and licenses. The radio equipment you are using will work fine with this system.
3. **Question:** What frequency bands are being provided with this capability?  
**Answer:** All first responder agencies in the Commonwealth are in one of three frequency bands (150, 450, and 800) and each of these bands will have this capability. Further capabilities allow for cross-band connections upon request.
4. **Question:** How do I sign up?  
**Answer:** Download the MOU, provide the information asked for, have an executive authority indicate that the agency will agree to follow the rules of use, and send it back to the address provided.
5. **Question:** How much does it cost?  
**Answer:** There is no cost to participating agencies. You need only program your radios to use the new channel and agree to the terms of use.
6. **Question:** Who will program my radios with the new frequency or frequencies?  
**Answer:** Each participating agency is responsible for programming their radios.
7. **Question:** Is this capability available for all first responders?  
**Answer:** Absolutely, we simply ask that each participating agency agree to the terms of use as detailed in the MOU.
8. **Question:** How soon will it be available?  
**Answer:** It is already available in many areas. We are currently purchasing new radios to augment the infrastructure for the 450MHz network. The 150MHz and 800MHz networks have been deployed and are operational. The 450MHz network will be 50% complete in July 2006. The remaining systems will be deployed in early 2007.



9. **Question:** What type of training do we need?

**Answer:** NIMS training is all that is require.

10. **Question:** Can the Agency participate if we don't have the training?

**Answer:** No

11. **Question:** Why should we participate? We already share radios/frequencies with our neighboring agencies.

**Answer:** Simply put, we never know when a large scale event may occur in our own backyard. Having the capability installed in radios just makes good sense. Having the capability and not needing it, is far better than needing it, but not having it.

12. **Question:** Can we use Mutual Aid for day to day operations?

**Answer:** No. It is in place for emergencies, and for any situations requiring aid from a neighboring agency. The best question to ask is – Is there a potential for loss of life or limb? If so, use it.

13. **Question:** Give me an example of when I can use it.

**Answer:** Imagine a municipal Police vehicle (800MHz) in hot pursuit of a stolen vehicle about to cross county lines. The Officer wants to get both KSP (450MHz) and the Sherriff (150MHz) to assist in setting up a road block. The local Police would call the KSP dispatcher on the 800MHz Mutual Aid channel and ask that the 800MHz, 450MHz, and 150MHz Mutual Aid channels be cross connected. Once done, the Officer would have the capability of speaking directly to multiple agencies in real time.

14. **Question:** How can I get more information, or detailed questions answered?

**Answer:** Since the person responsible for this program may change over the years, a permanent email address has been set up. Please send any questions or requests for conservations to [MutualAid@ky.gov](mailto:MutualAid@ky.gov) .